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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA – WESTERN DIVISION**

LOS ANGELES PRESS CLUB,
STATUS COUP,

PLAINTIFFS,

v.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES, a municipal
entity, JIM MCDONNELL, LAPD
CHIEF, sued in his official capacity;

DEFENDANTS.

Case No. 2:25-CV-05423-HDV-E

HON. HERNÁN D. VERA

**DECLARATION OF SEAN
BECKNER-CARMITCHEL**

DECLARATION OF SEAN BECKNER-CARMITCHEL

1
2 1. I, Sean Beckner-Carmitchel, hereby declare: I am a freelance multi-
3 media journalist in the Southern California area and member of the Los Angeles
4 Press Club. I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge and if
5 called to testify I could and would do so competently as follows:

6 2. I have been working as a freelance journalist in the Southern
7 California area for the past six years. I produce video and articles about a range of
8 events and topics, with a focus on law enforcement agencies and public protests.
9 My work has been published by various news organizations, including CNN,
10 ABC's Good Morning America, The New York Times, CalMatters, the Beverly
11 Hills Courier, Los Angeles Public Press, and Knock LA.

12 3. During several months in 2020, I reported about numerous public
13 protests on the streets of Southern California over the police murder of George
14 Floyd in Minnesota and other protests over local police killings and shootings in
15 Southern California area. I reported about and filmed the protests and police
16 actions against the protesters.

17 4. During June 2025, I reported about the public protests on the streets of
18 Southern California over immigration sweeps by federal officers and the "No
19 Kings" march on June 14, 2025. I reported about and filmed the protests and police
20 actions against the protesters. I saw a definite difference between the way the Los
21 Angeles Police Department acted towards journalists in June 2025 compared to
22 2020. In June 2025, the LAPD has been firing more less lethals, known as LLMs,
23 at journalists compared to 2020, with a casual disregard with LLMs, and firing at
24 journalists' heads. I've seen a lot more serious, visible injuries on journalists due to
25 actions by the LAPD during the protests in June 2025 compared to 2020, many of
26 which requires serious medical treatment or hospitalization. I am able to recognize
27 LAPD officers by their cars that are marked "Los Angeles Police Department," and
28 their dark blue uniforms, and arm patches. In contrast, the Los Angeles County

1 Sheriff's Department deputies wear light tan shirts and dark green pants as their
2 uniform. I posted my videos and reporting on my account on the online social
3 media platform BlueSky.

4 5. During the daytime on June 8, 2025, I was reporting about and filming
5 a public protest and LAPD actions on Spring Street near Los Angeles City Hall
6 and the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center. I was wearing my
7 credentials for my reporting company, ACatWithNews, a white helmet, was using
8 a Sony A7iii camera, often used by professional news gathering videographers and
9 photographers. I was with several other journalists who were carrying large
10 cameras and similar professional equipment. Our group of journalists huddled in
11 an entrance to a closed underground parking garage at the Clara Shortridge Foltz
12 courthouse to stay out of the way of the LAPD and report about the protest and
13 LAPD actions. But I and other journalists were forced to leave the parking garage
14 entrance when the LAPD fired tear gas in Spring Street directly across from our
15 location and physically entered the parking garage ramp and ordered journalists to
16 leave. I posted my video and reporting about this incident on the online social
17 media platform BlueSky. A true and correct copy of the video is attached as
18 **Exhibit 36**. It is also available at

19 <https://bsky.app/profile/acatwithnews.bsky.social/post/3lr5dzsokwc2i>.

20 6. During this same incident on Spring Street on June 8, 2025, I and
21 other journalists attempted to flee the LAPD by walking onto Spring Street in front
22 of the Clara Shortridge Foltz courthouse, turning right on Spring Street, and
23 walking into Grand Park in front of Los Angeles City Hall. I saw LAPD officers
24 chase an unidentified woman photographer with multiple professional cameras and
25 large lenses as well as press identification on a lanyard around her neck even
26 though she was walking away from officers and trying to leave the area. One
27 LAPD officer on foot pushed his hand against photographer's back as she was
28 walking and then another officer horseback ran his horse into her from behind as

1 she continued to walk away. I posted my video and reporting on the incident on the
2 online social media platform BlueSky. A true and correct copy of the video of the
3 incident is attached as **Exhibit 37**. It is also available at

4 <https://bsky.app/profile/acatwithnews.bsky.social/post/3lr5esplzsc2b>

5 7. During this same incident on Spring Street on June 8, 2025 when I
6 and other reporters attempted to flee the LAPD into Grand Park, I saw LAPD
7 officers appeared to take pot shots with an LLM at an unidentified photographer
8 with a yellow helmet holding up a professional camera to film the officers with
9 other photography gear strapped to him, and what appeared to be some sort of
10 identification on a lanyard which he was also holding in the air. The LLM landed
11 in the bed of yellow flowers in front of him. I posted my video and reporting on the
12 incident on the online social media platform BlueSky. A true and correct copy of
13 the video of the incident is attached as **Exhibit 39**. It is also available at

14 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1A5m2UNhs7PfcSbfWsikLYypvnxnMobO5/view>

15 8. During separate daytime incident on June 8, 2025, I was among a
16 group of journalists carrying large cameras, tripods, headphones, and similar
17 professional equipment who were filming and reporting about protesters walking
18 in the intersection of Alameda and East Aliso streets in downtown Los Angeles
19 when I heard LAPD order the press to leave the protest area. At least twice and as
20 depicted in my video, I heard the LAPD scream at me and other journalists,
21 “Media, go!” I posted my video and reporting on the incident on the online social

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1 media platform BlueSky. A true and correct copy of the video of the incident is
2 attached as **Exhibit 42**. It is also available at
3 <https://bsky.app/profile/acatwithnews.bsky.social/post/3lr4ubmg2nc22>
4

5 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and
6 the United States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed July 2, 2025, in
7 Los Angeles, California.

8 
9 Sean Beckner-Carmitchel